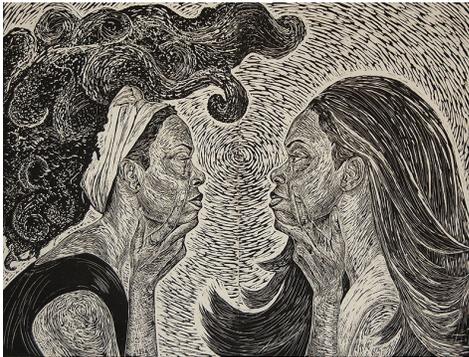


For immediate release:

ARTISTS PORTRAY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE USING IMAGES OF THE FEMALE FORM
Feminist art exhibition highlights healing and wellness through depictions of women and their bodies.



BALTIMORE—*breathe in gold light* features work in a range of media by twelve Mid-Atlantic women artists visualizing female bodies as conduits for transcendent spiritual experiences. On view **April 19–May 19, 2015** at **New Door Creative Gallery** in Baltimore’s Station North Arts and Entertainment District, the exhibition aims to counter an ongoing local, national, and global narrative that portrays women and their bodies in ways that are oppressive, exploitative, and consumerist, rather than sacred. The artwork on view was created in part by the artists to offer an alternative, holistic perspective on women’s bodies as legitimate and reliable sources of knowledge and guidance, as sites for meaning making, and as ways for connecting to our inner selves and with others.

The exhibition includes portraits of individuals engaging in spiritual practices, scenes of partnership and collaboration, and depictions of communities unified by ritual. Participating artists include **Mequitta Ahuja, Shanthi Chandrasekar, Oletha DeVane, LaToya Hobbs, Sarah Kodish-Eskind, Cynthu Muthusamy, Melody Often, Rachel Rotenberg, Amalie Rothschild, Judy Tallwing, Sandra Wasko-Flood, and Mia Weiner**. While several artists depict female bodies representationally, others create metaphoric images inspired by their own personal, embodied experiences as women. These figurative and abstract works create a dynamic conversation between the concretely physical and transcendently intangible experiences that bodies mediate.

The exhibition is curated by Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) Curatorial Practice MFA Candidate Kelly Johnson for her thesis, in partnership with The Feminist Art Project–Baltimore, a non-profit organization committed to recognizing and promoting women artists in Baltimore. Johnson says, “The paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, and the video featured in the exhibition reflect a deep veneration for the bodies of women and the full and rich lives those bodies contain.”

Free related programming includes a film screening, community labyrinth walk, a self-care workshop for artists, and slow-looking sessions.

Thursday, March 5, 5:30–7:30pm: Film screening of *Who Does She Think She Is?* (2009) at Maryland Women’s Heritage Center, 39 West Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Free and open to the public. Register for tickets [here](#).

This documentary follows five American women artists’ struggles and successes as they balance careers and family. Light refreshments and snacks will be served, and a short discussion with members of The Feminist Art Project–Baltimore will follow the screening.

Sunday, April 19, 2–5pm: Opening Reception at New Door Creative, 1601 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Free and open to the public. Wear something gold to celebrate with us!

Saturday, May 2, 1–3pm: Labyrinth Walk for Women and Art with Rev. Dr. Virginia LoneSky at New Door Creative. Free and open to the public, no prior experience necessary.

On World Labyrinth Day, learn more about the history and significance of labyrinths from labyrinth expert Rev. Dr. Virginia LoneSky and walk the meditative path created specifically for the exhibition by artist Sandra Wasko-Flood. Over four thousand years old and found worldwide, labyrinths are ancient symbols for wisdom and peace. Many people find that walking the single meandering path slows breathing, focuses the mind, and induces a peaceful state.

Saturday, May 9, 1–2pm: Self-care Workshop for Artists with Cait Byrnes at New Door Creative. Free and requires registration, space is limited. (Link to registration available on www.breathinggoldlight.com in April.) Join The Feminist Art Project–Baltimore member Cait Byrnes, holistic health coach and burlesque performer, for an interactive workshop teaching artists how to balance their work and the art of self-care. Try out specific health tips and exercises tailored to the stresses artists face. Light refreshments and snacks will be served, and participants will be provided with supplies to create a take-home self-care item.

Slow Looking Sessions and Tea with the Curator every Saturday 3–4pm and by request for group tours. Free and open to the public.

The average viewer looks at a work of art for only 6 seconds! Spend more time with the work on view and relax with a cup of tea as curator Kelly Johnson walks visitors through two 10 minute slow looking sessions focused on works of the visitor's choice, followed by informal discussions about the viewing experience.

About New Door Creative

New Door Creative is a fine art gallery located in the Station North Arts and Entertainment District. Founded in 2004 by gallery owner, curator, and artist Michelle Talibah on Antique Row, the gallery moved to its current location in 2007. New Door Creative is a forum for the exposure and advancement of creative visual expression that reflects contemplative process, spiritual insight, and intellectual and cultural attunement. The gallery exhibits a range of media that includes painting, enamel, fine art prints, sculpture, and photography.

About The Feminist Art Project–Baltimore

The Feminist Art Project–Baltimore (TFAP–B) recognizes the aesthetic, intellectual and political impact of women on visual arts and culture. TFAP–B, a program of Fusion Partnerships, Inc., is a grassroots, non-profit arts organization that aims to be inclusive; supporting local, self-identified female artists, as well as men who recognize and promote Baltimore area women in the arts. The Feminist Art Project was started at Rutgers University in 2006 as an international collaborative initiative celebrating the Feminist Art Movement and promoting diverse feminist art events, education, and publications around the world.

Visitor Information

New Door Creative is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Wednesday–Sunday, 12–4pm, or by appointment. New Door Creative is located at 1601 St. Paul Street, across from Penn Station. For easy access take the Charm City Circulator Purple Route north to the Penn Station stop. Free and metered parking spots are also available on St. Paul Street.

Contact

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For more information visit www.breathinggoldlight.com

Image Credits Sandra Wasko-Flood, *Life Cycle: Spring*, 1986; lightbox, 15x12in. LaToya Hobbs, *Transition (Double Self-Portrait)*, 2011; woodcut, 45x60in. Cynthia Muthusamy, *Olimpia*, 2014; silkscreen print, 15x15in.